

1 AN ACT concerning Gulf War Veterans.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67)

7 Sec. 2. Powers and duties. The Department shall have  
8 the following powers and duties:

9 To perform such acts at the request of any veteran, or  
10 his or her spouse, surviving spouse or dependents as shall be  
11 reasonably necessary or reasonably incident to obtaining or  
12 endeavoring to obtain for the requester any advantage,  
13 benefit or emolument accruing or due to such person under any  
14 law of the United States, the State of Illinois or any other  
15 state or governmental agency by reason of the service of such  
16 veteran, and in pursuance thereof shall:

17 1. Contact veterans, their survivors and dependents  
18 and advise them of the benefits of state and federal laws  
19 and assist them in obtaining such benefits;

20 2. Establish field offices and direct the  
21 activities of the personnel assigned to such offices;

22 3. Create a volunteer field force of accredited  
23 representatives, representing educational institutions,  
24 labor organizations, veterans organizations, employers,  
25 churches, and farm organizations;

26 4. Conduct informational and training services;

27 5. Conduct educational programs through newspapers,  
28 periodicals and radio for the specific purpose of  
29 disseminating information affecting veterans and their  
30 dependents;

31 6. Coordinate the services and activities of all

1 state departments having services and resources affecting  
2 veterans and their dependents;

3 7. Encourage and assist in the coordination of  
4 agencies within counties giving service to veterans and  
5 their dependents;

6 8. Cooperate with veterans organizations and other  
7 governmental agencies;

8 9. Make, alter, amend and promulgate reasonable  
9 rules and procedures for the administration of this Act;  
10 and

11 10. Make and publish annual reports to the Governor  
12 regarding the administration and general operation of the  
13 Department.

14 11. Encourage the State to implement more programs  
15 to address the wide range of issues faced by Persian Gulf  
16 War Veterans, especially those who took part in combat,  
17 by creating an official commission to further study  
18 Persian Gulf War Diseases. The commission shall consist  
19 of 9 members appointed as follows: the Speaker and  
20 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the  
21 President and Minority Leader of the Senate shall each  
22 appoint one member from the General Assembly, the  
23 Governor shall appoint 4 members to represent veterans'  
24 organizations, and the Department shall appoint one  
25 member. The commission members shall serve without  
26 compensation.

27 12. Make grants, from moneys appropriated from the  
28 Gulf War Memorial Fund, to private organizations for the  
29 costs of erecting a Gulf War Memorial in Illinois.

30 The Department may accept and hold on behalf of the  
31 State, if for the public interest, a grant, gift, devise or  
32 bequest of money or property to the Department made for the  
33 general benefit of Illinois veterans, including the conduct  
34 of informational and training services by the Department and

1 other authorized purposes of the Department. The Department  
 2 shall cause each grant, gift, devise or bequest to be kept as  
 3 a distinct fund and shall invest such funds in the manner  
 4 provided by the Public Funds Investment Act, as now or  
 5 hereafter amended, and shall make such reports as may be  
 6 required by the Comptroller concerning what funds are so held  
 7 and the manner in which such funds are invested. The  
 8 Department may make grants from these funds for the general  
 9 benefit of Illinois veterans. Grants from these funds,  
 10 except for the funds established under Sections 2.01a and  
 11 2.03, shall be subject to appropriation.

12 (Source: P.A. 90-142, eff. 1-1-98; 90-168, eff. 7-23-97;  
 13 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

14 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
 15 Section 5.545 as follows:

16 (30 ILCS 105/5.545 new)

17 Sec. 5.545. The Gulf War Memorial Fund.

18 Section 15. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
 19 changing Section 3-412 and adding Section 3-648 as follows:

20 (625 ILCS 5/3-412) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-412)

21 Sec. 3-412. Registration plates and registration  
 22 stickers to be furnished by the Secretary of State.

23 (a) The Secretary of State upon registering a vehicle  
 24 subject to annual registration for the first time shall  
 25 issue or shall cause to be issued to the owner one  
 26 registration plate for a motorcycle, trailer, semitrailer,  
 27 motorized pedalcycle or truck-tractor, 2 registration plates  
 28 for other motor vehicles and, where applicable, current  
 29 registration stickers for motor vehicles of the first  
 30 division. The provisions of this Section may be made

1 applicable to such vehicles of the second division, as the  
2 Secretary of State may, from time to time, in his discretion  
3 designate. On subsequent annual registrations during the term  
4 of the registration plate as provided in Section 3-414.1, the  
5 Secretary shall issue or cause to be issued registration  
6 stickers as evidence of current registration. However, the  
7 issuance of annual registration stickers to vehicles  
8 registered under the provisions of Section 3-402.1 of this  
9 Code may not be required if the Secretary deems the issuance  
10 unnecessary.

11 (b) Every registration plate shall have displayed upon  
12 it the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which  
13 it is issued, the name of this State, which may be  
14 abbreviated, the year number for which it was issued, which  
15 may be abbreviated, the phrase "Land of Lincoln", except as  
16 provided in Sections 3-626, 3-629, 3-633, 3-634, 3-637,  
17 3-638, and 3-642, and 3-648, and such other letters or  
18 numbers as the Secretary may prescribe. However, for  
19 apportionment plates issued to vehicles registered under  
20 Section 3-402.1, the phrase "Land of Lincoln" may be omitted  
21 to allow for the word "apportioned" to be displayed. The  
22 Secretary may in his discretion prescribe that letters be  
23 used as prefixes only on registration plates issued to  
24 vehicles of the first division which are registered under  
25 this Code and only as suffixes on registration plates issued  
26 to other vehicles. Every registration sticker issued as  
27 evidence of current registration shall designate the year  
28 number for which it is issued and such other letters or  
29 numbers as the Secretary may prescribe and shall be of a  
30 contrasting color with the registration plates and  
31 registration stickers of the previous year.

32 (c) Each registration plate and the required letters and  
33 numerals thereon, except the year number for which issued,  
34 shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a

1 distance of 100 feet during daylight, and shall be coated  
2 with reflectorizing material. The dimensions of the plate  
3 issued to vehicles of the first division shall be 6 by 12  
4 inches.

5 (d) The Secretary of State shall issue for every  
6 passenger motor vehicle rented without a driver the same type  
7 of registration plates as the type of plates issued for a  
8 private passenger vehicle.

9 (e) The Secretary of State shall issue for every  
10 passenger car used as a taxicab or livery, distinctive  
11 registration plates.

12 (f) The Secretary of State shall issue for every  
13 motorcycle distinctive registration plates distinguishing  
14 between motorcycles having 150 or more cubic centimeters  
15 piston displacement, or having less than 150 cubic centimeter  
16 piston displacement.

17 (g) Registration plates issued to vehicles for-hire may  
18 display a designation as determined by the Secretary that  
19 such vehicles are for-hire.

20 (h) The Secretary of State shall issue for each electric  
21 vehicle distinctive registration plates which shall  
22 distinguish between electric vehicles having a maximum  
23 operating speed of 45 miles per hour or more and those having  
24 a maximum operating speed of less than 45 miles per hour.

25 (i) The Secretary of State shall issue for every public  
26 and private ambulance registration plates identifying the  
27 vehicle as an ambulance. The Secretary shall forward to the  
28 Department of Public Aid registration information for the  
29 purpose of verification of claims filed with the Department  
30 by ambulance owners for payment for services to public  
31 assistance recipients.

32 (j) The Secretary of State shall issue for every public  
33 and private medical carrier or rescue vehicle livery  
34 registration plates displaying numbers within ranges of

1 numbers reserved respectively for medical carriers and rescue  
 2 vehicles. The Secretary shall forward to the Department of  
 3 Public Aid registration information for the purpose of  
 4 verification of claims filed with the Department by owners of  
 5 medical carriers or rescue vehicles for payment for services  
 6 to public assistance recipients.

7 (Source: P.A. 89-424, eff. 6-1-96; 89-564, eff. 7-1-97;  
 8 89-612, eff. 8-9-96; 89-621, eff. 1-1-97; 89-639, eff.  
 9 1-1-97; 90-14, eff. 7-1-97; 90-533, eff. 11-14-97; 90-655,  
 10 eff. 7-30-98.)

11 (625 ILCS 5/3-648 new)

12 Sec. 3-648. Gulf War Veteran license plate.

13 (a) In addition to any other special license plate, the  
 14 Secretary of State, upon receipt of all applicable fees and  
 15 applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary,  
 16 may issue special registration plates designated as Gulf War  
 17 Veteran license plates to residents of Illinois who  
 18 participated in the Persian Gulf Conflict between the dates  
 19 recognized by the United States Department of Veterans'  
 20 Affairs. The special plate issued under this Section must be  
 21 affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division,  
 22 motor vehicles of the second division, and recreational  
 23 vehicles as defined in Section 1-169 of this Code. Plates  
 24 issued under this Section shall expire according to the  
 25 staggered multi-year procedure established by Section 3-414.1  
 26 of this Code.

27 (b) The design, color, and format of the plates shall be  
 28 wholly within the discretion of the Secretary of State. The  
 29 Secretary may, in his or her discretion, allow the plates to  
 30 be issued as vanity plates or personalized in accordance with  
 31 Section 3-405.1 of this Code. The plates are not required to  
 32 designate "Land of Lincoln", as prescribed in subsection (b)  
 33 of Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary shall prescribe

1 the eligibility requirements and, in his or her discretion,  
2 shall approve and prescribe stickers or decals as provided  
3 under Section 3-412.

4 (c) An applicant must be charged a \$15 fee for original  
5 issuance in addition to the applicable registration fee. Of  
6 the additional fee, \$13 must be deposited into the Secretary  
7 of State Special License Plate Fund and \$2 must be deposited  
8 into the Gulf War Memorial Fund. For each registration  
9 renewal period, a \$2 fee, in addition to the appropriate  
10 registration fee, must be charged and must be deposited into  
11 the Secretary of State Special Licenses Plate Fund.

12 (d) The Gulf War Memorial Fund is created as a special  
13 fund in the State treasury. Moneys in the Fund may, subject  
14 to appropriation, be used by the Department of Veterans'  
15 Affairs to provide grants for the construction of the Gulf  
16 War Memorial. Upon the completion of the Memorial, the  
17 Department of Veterans' Affairs must certify to the State  
18 Treasurer that the construction of the Memorial has been  
19 completed. Upon the certification of the Department of  
20 Veterans' Affairs, the State Treasurer must transfer all  
21 moneys in the Fund into the Secretary of State Special  
22 License Plate Fund.